

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 944

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to designate April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a societal problem that affects nearly every community within our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, sadly, the number of abused or neglected children continues to increase every year; child abuse and neglect includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical neglect, all of which may be the result of a multiplicity of such social problems as family dysfunction, mental health problems, substance abuse, inadequate parenting skills, teen pregnancy, homelessness, family violence, crime, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize the intense problem of child abuse and the lasting effects it has on our state's most precious resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of community and state leadership to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect, and to establish prevention and support mechanisms for children and parents in order to stop the cycle of abuse that destroys the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, the designation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month is an effort to raise awareness of child abuse and to encourage communities throughout our state to create partnerships among social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community, and to become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the month of April 2004 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.